WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image verification apparatus comprising:

verification unit adapted to verify whether an image file has been altered; and

5   display form change unit adapted to change a display form of accessory information of the image file when the image file is detected to have been altered.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display form change unit includes unit adapted to erase

10   the accessory information of the image file.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display form change unit includes unit adapted to add a predetermined sign to the accessory information of the image file.

15   4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the accessory information contains information on the image file.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the accessory information contains information on an

20   apparatus which has generated the image file.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said verification unit includes unit adapted to detect whether the image file has been altered, by using a common key of common key cryptography.

25   7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said verification unit includes unit adapted to detect whether the image file has been altered, by using a

public key of public key cryptography.

8.   An image verification method comprising:

a verification step of verifying whether an image file has been altered; and

5   a display form change step of changing a display form of accessory information of the image file when the image file is detected to have been altered.

9.   The method according to claim 8, wherein the display form change step includes a step of erasing the

10   accessory information of the image file.

10.   The method according to claim 8, wherein the display form change step includes a step of adding a predetermined sign to the accessory information of the image file.

15   11.   The method according to claim 8, wherein the accessory information contains information on the image file.

12.   The method according to claim 8, wherein the accessory information contains information on an

20   apparatus which has generated the image file.

13.   The method according to claim 8, wherein the verification step includes a step of detecting whether the image file has been altered, by using a common key of common key cryptography.

25   14.   The method according to claim 8, wherein the verification step includes a step of detecting whether the image file has been altered, by using a public key

of public key cryptography.

15.   A computer program causing a computer to execute an image verification method defined in claim 8.

16.   A computer-readable recording medium recording a computer program defined in claim 15.